PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY	· ·	PCT		
To: FENSTER & COMPANY, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 2002 LTD. Attn. Fenster, Paul P.O. Box 10256 49002 Petach Tikva ISRAEL	THE INTERNATION. THE WRITTEN OPINION	OF TRANSMITTAL OF AL SEARCH REPORT AND ON OF THE INTERNATIONAL RITY, OR THE DECLARATION		
		CT Rule 44.1)		
	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 09/	11/2005		
Applicant's or agent's file reference				
032/04081	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See paragraphs 1 and 4 below		
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)			
PCT/IL2004/001169 Applicant	26/	12/2004		
ALGOTEC SYSTEMS LTD.				
The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith. Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19: The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international Application (see Rule 46): When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report, however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet. Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Fascimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.95 For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet. 2. The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith. 3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that: the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices. no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made. 4. Reminders Shortly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the international Bureau as provided in Rules 90.6/s.1 and 90.6/s.3, respectively, before the completion of the lechnical preparations for international publication. The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the Interna				
See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the app Guide, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.	olicable time limits, Office by Office			
		HECEIVED		
Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Leila Kuhnen	15 NOV 2005		
orm PCT/ISA/220 (January 2004)	· ·	See note Note companying sheet)		

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered a having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filled.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER	E POWER IN
032/04081	ACTION as we	see Form PCT/ISA/220 ell as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
PCT/IL2004/001169	26/12/2004	15/01/2004
Applicant		
ALCOMPC GVORDMG IND		
ALGOTEC SYSTEMS LTD.		
This International Search Report has bee according to Article 18. A copy is being tr	en prepared by this international Searching Auth ransmitted to the International Bureau.	nority and is transmitted to the applicant
This International Search Report consists	of a total ofsheets.	
It is also accompanied by	a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.
Basis of the report		
 a. With regard to the fanguage, the language in which it was filed, un! 	international search was carried out on the bas less otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the
The international	search was carried out on the basis of a transla	ation of the international application furnished to
	(-)/-	
b. With regard to any nucleo	otide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed i	in the international application, see Box No. !.
2. Certain claims were four	nd unsearchable (See Box II).	
3. X Unity of invention is lack	kina (see Box III).	
	(002 20X III).	
4. With regard to the title , The text is approved as sulface.	la and the sale an	
	omiπed by the applicant. hed by this Authority to read as follows:	
	by the Additing to load as follows.	
5. With regard to the abstract,		
X the text is approved as sub	imitted by the applicant	
the text has been established	ed according to Bule 38 2/h), by this Authority.	CO II TORONO IN DOLLAR. NA TR
may, within one month from	n the date of mailing of this international search	ereport, submit comments to this Authority.
. With regard to the drawings ,		
a. the figure of the drawings to be put		
(5)	blished with the abstract is Figure No. 7	
X as suggested by the	blished with the abstract is Figure No7 e applicant.	
as selected by this	e applicant. Authority, because the applicant failed to sugge	est a figure.
as selected by this	e applicant. Authority, because the applicant failed to sugge Authority, because this figure better characteriz	est a figure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/IL2004/001169

A. CLASS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
1170 /	IPC 7 G06T7/60				
According	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national clas-	sification and IPC			
1	SEARCHED				
Minimum d	locumentation searched (classification system followed by classifi $G\Theta6T$	cation symbols)			
	4001				
Doouments	tion coordend ather the		·		
Dodumenta	ation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent th	at such documents are included in the fields sea	arched		
<u> </u>					
	data base consulted during the international search (name of data				
EPO-In	iternal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM	1-TDB			
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the	relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
			nelevant to ciaim No.		
Α	LI R ET AL: "Combining front p	propagation	1-72,		
	with shape knowledge for accura	ite	86-94		
i	curvilinear modeling"		- ,		
	MEDICAL IMAGE COMPUTING AND COMPUTER-ASSISTED INTERVENTION	MICCAI			
	2003. 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERE	NCF	·		
ļ	PROCEEDINGS. PART II (LECTURE N	OTES IN			
	COMPUT. SCI. VOL. 2879) SPRINGE	R - VFRIAG			
	BERLIN, GERMANY, 2003, pages 66 XP002325788	-74,			
	ISBN: 3-540-20464-4				
	the whole document				
.					
		-/			
	*	·			
	or documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in	annex,		
	gories of cited documents :	"T" later document published after the intern	ational filipp date		
"A" documen conside	t defining the general state of the art which is not red to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the intern or priority date and not in conflict with th cited to understand the principle or theo	application but		
"E" earlier do	F" earlier document but published on as offer the international invention				
Till document which may throw doubte as a significant of an arial to a cannot be considered novel or cannot be or			considered to		
which is dired to establish the publication date of another citation or other special region (se propided) "Y" document of particular rele			med Invention		
'O" documen	O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such document				
" document published prior to the international filing date but in the art.			to a person skilled		
"&" document member of the same patent family					
Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report			report		
28	April 2005	09 11. 2005			
vame and ma	iling address of the ISA	Authorized officer			
	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk				
	Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Herter, J			

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/IL2004/001169

C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	PC1/112004/001	109
Category °		Polourant	
	The state of the s	netevant 1	o claim No.
A	SETHIAN J A: "Level set methods and fast marching methods" [Online] 1999, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, XP002325674 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://math.berkeley.edu/~sethian/Book s/sethian book.ps> [retrieved on 2005-04-20] the whole document		-72, 5-94
	DESCHAMPS T ET AL: "Fast extraction of minimal paths in 3D images and applications to virtual endoscopy" MEDICAL IMAGE ANALYSIS, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, OXOFRD, GB, vol. 5, 2001, pages 281-299, XP002904305 ISSN: 1361-8415 the whole document		72, -94
	COHEN L D ET AL: "GLOBAL MINIMUM FOR ACTIVE CONTOUR MODELS: A MINIMAL PATH APPROACH"		72, -94
	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMPUTER VISION, KLUWER ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS, NORWELL, US, vol. 24, no. 1, August 1997 (1997-08), pages 57-78, XP000703576 ISSN: 0920-5691 cited in the application the whole document		
	WINK O ET AL: "3D MRA CORONARY AXIS DETERMINATION USING A MINIMUM COST PATH APPROACH" MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN MEDICINE, ACADEMIC PRESS, DULUTH, MN, US, vol. 47, no. 6, June 2002 (2002-06), pages 1169-1175, XP001170393 ISSN: 0740-3194 the whole document	1-7 86-	
	MADDAH MAHNAZ ET AL: "Efficient center-line extraction for quantification of vessels in confocal microscopy images" MEDICAL PHYSICS, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS. NEW YORK, US, vol. 30, no. 2, February 2003 (2003-02), pages 204-211, XP012011984 ISSN: 0094-2405	1-7 86-	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/1L2004/001169

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a). 1. Claims Nos.:
Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see additional sheet
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. X No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-72, 86-94
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-72,86-94

centerline finding for a tubular tissue in a medical image data set

2. claims: 73-80

segmentation of an organ in a medical data set

3. claims: 81-85

propagation fo a parametrization in a medical data set

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY To: WRITTEN OPINION OF THE see form PCT/ISA/220 INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1) Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) Applicant's or agent's file reference FOR FURTHER ACTION see form PCT/ISA/220 See paragraph 2 below International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) Priority date (day/month/year) PCT/IL2004/001169 26.12.2004 15.01.2004 International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G06T7/60 Applicant ALGOTEC SYSTEMS LTD. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items: Box No. I Basis of the opinion ☐ Box No. !I Priority ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability Box No. IV Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 2. **FURTHER ACTION** If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1 bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered. If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later. For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220. Name and mailing address of the ISA: Authorized Officer

Herter, J.

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7478

Form (PCT/ISA/237) (Cover Sheet) (January 2004)

European Patent Office D-80298 Munich

Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/IL2004/001169

	Во	x No. IV	Lack of unity of	finventio	n		
1,	Ø	☐ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has:					
			paid additional fee	s.			
			paid additional fee	s under p	rotest.		
			not paid additional	fees.			
2.		This Ai	uthority found that to plicant to pay addition	he require onal fees.	ment of ur	nity of invention is not co	omplied with and chose not to invite
3.	Thi	s Authoi	rity considers that th	ne require	ment of un	ity of invention in accord	dance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 i
		complie	d with				
	×	not com	plied with for the fol	lowing rea	asons:		
		see se	parate sheet				
4.	Cor	Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:					
		all parts.					
	⊠ t	the parts	relating to claims I	Nos. 1-72	and 86-95		
		k No. V ustrial a	Reasoned state	ment und	ler Rule 43 explanatio	Bbis.1(a)(i) with regard	to novelty, inventive step or atement
1.	Stat	tement					
	Nov	elty (N)		Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-72, 86-94	
	Inve	entive st	ep (IS)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-72, 86-94	
	Indu	ıstrial ap	pplicability (IA)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-72, 86-94	
2.	Cita	tions an	d explanations				

see separate sheet

As to claims 1-72, 86-94 and claims 73-80:

The principal common feature of "segmentation" present in both claims 1 and 73, 77 and 79 is a well-known concept in the art and therefore known to the skilled person. Claim 1 is silent about any special segmentation method and thus the remaining features of said claims which represent the contribution over the known art differ completely thereby leading to a lack of unity (Rule 13 PCT).

As to claims 1-72, 86-94 and claims 81-80:

No common features can be established between said groups of claims, thereby leading to a lack of unity (Rule 13 PCT).

In conclusion, the groups of claims are not linked by common or corresponding special technical features and define 3 different inventions not linked by a single general inventive concept.

The application, hence does not meet the requirements of unity of invention as defined in Rules 13.1 and 13.2 PCT.

- 3. <u>Item V:</u> Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- 3.1 The present application meets the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT because the subject matter of claims 1-72 and 86-94 is novel and involves an inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

As to claim 1:

D1 discloses:

A method of centerline determination for a tubular tissue in a medical image data set defined in a data space (see page 68, lines 1-18), comprising:

- receiving at least one start point and one end point inside a tubular tissue volume (see page 69, lines 8-9);
- automatically determining a path between said points that remains inside said volume (see page 69, lines 9-11);

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: Li et al.: "Combining front propagation with shape knowledge for accurate curvilinear modelling" Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention - MICCAI 2003. 6th International Conference. Proceedings. Part II (Lecture Notes in Comput. Sci. Vol. 2879) Springer-Verlag Berlin, Germany, 2003, pages 66-74
- D2: Deschamps et al.: "Fast extraction of minimal paths in 3D images and applications to virtual endoscopy" Medical Image Analysis, Oxford University Press, Oxford, GB, vol. 5, 2001, pages 281-299
- D3: Cohen et al.: "Global minimum for active contour models: A minimal path approach" International Journal of Computer Vision, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Norwell, US, vol. 24, no. 1, August 1997, pages 57-78
- D4: Wink et al.: "3D MRA coronary axis determination using a minimum cost path approach" Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, Academic Press, Duluth, MN, US, vol. 47, no. 6, June 2002, pages 1169-1175
- D5: Maddah et al.L: "Efficient center-line extraction for quantification of vessels in confocal microscopy images" Medical Physics, American Institute of Physics. New York, US, vol. 30, no. 2, February 2003, pages 204-211

2. <u>Item IV:</u> Lack of unity of invention

This Authority considers that there are 3 inventions covered by the claims indicated as follows:

- I: Claims 1-72 and 86-94 directed to centerline finding for a tubular tissue in a medical data set.
- II: Claims 73-80 directed to segmentation of an organ in a medical data set
- III: Claims 81-85 directed to propagation of a parametrization in a medical data set

The reasons for which the inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, as required by Rule 13.1 PCT, are as follows:

As to claims 1-72, 86-94 and claims 73-80:

The principal common feature of "segmentation" present in both claims 1 and 73, 77 and 79 is a well-known concept in the art and therefore known to the skilled person. Claim 1 is silent about any special segmentation method and thus the remaining features of said claims which represent the contribution over the known art differ completely thereby leading to a lack of unity (Rule 13 PCT).

As to claims 1-72, 86-94 and claims 81-80:

No common features can be established between said groups of claims, thereby leading to a lack of unity (Rule 13 PCT).

In conclusion, the groups of claims are not linked by common or corresponding special technical features and define 3 different inventions not linked by a single general inventive concept.

The application, hence does not meet the requirements of unity of invention as defined in Rules 13.1 and 13.2 PCT.

- 3. <u>Item V:</u> Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- 3.1 The present application meets the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT because the subject matter of claims 1-72 and 86-94 is novel and involves an inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

As to claim 1:

D1 discloses:

A method of centerline determination for a tubular tissue in a medical image data set defined in a data space (see page 68, lines 1-18), comprising:

- receiving at least one start point and one end point inside a tubular tissue volume (see page 69, lines 8-9);
- automatically determining a path between said points that remains inside said volume (see page 69, lines 9-11);

- automatically segmenting said tubular tissue using said path (see page 69, lines 9-11 and page 70, line 17- page 71, line 5); and
- automatically determining a centerline for said tubular tissue from said segmentation (see page 70, line 17- page 71, line 5)

D1 however does not disclose:

- wherein said receiving, said determining a path and said segmenting, said determining a centerline are all performed on a same data space of said medical image data set.

The method of D1 computes a distance field, so that the operations do not take place within the same data space of medical image data set.

This is also not disclosed in any of the other available prior art on file.

- 3.2 The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claim 86, which therefore is also considered new and inventive.
- 3.3 The independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (document D1) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(I) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
- 3.4 The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
- 3.5 Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1 to D5 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.